



NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT,
1938.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

J. D. MUNRO,

TO WHICH IS APPENDED

the Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

P. BEBBINGTON.

Nantwich Urban District.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Health and Sanitary Condition

of the

Urban District of Nantwich,

for the Year 1938,

By J. D. MUNRO,

Medical Officer of Health,

and the

Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

P. BEBBINGTON.



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REPORT.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Nantwich, which is an ancient town, is situated in the South-West corner of the County of Cheshire.

The climate is equable and mild, and the geological formation met with consists of red marl.

It is a market town for a large and important agricultural area.

The Brine Baths Hotel is situated on the outskirts of the town, and is visited by a large number of patients suffering from Rheumatism, Gout, Sciatica, Neuritis, etc.

There is a Brine Swimming Pool, 100 feet in length and 50 feet in width. The water is purified and maintained at the highest degree of purity.

The industries consist of Wholesale Clothing Manufacturies, Boot and Shoe Manufacturies, and a large Tannery.

Area (acres), 1,173.

Estimated population to middle of 1938, 8,345.

Number of inhabited houses (1938), 2,314.

Rateable value, £41,025 0s. 0d.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £162 10s. 11d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total	M.	F.
Births :	94	54	40

(Of the above births 1 was illegitimate).

Birth Rate, 11·25 per 1,000 population.

Deaths, 93. Death Rate, 11·14 per 1,000 population.

Deaths under one year of age numbered 2 : illegitimate, Nil.
The infantile death rate was 21·27 per 1,000 births.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR.

	AGE GROUPS.												Total cases notified	Cases admitt'd to Hospit'l	Total Deaths
	Under 1 Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over			
		1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	...	1	1	3	1	6	2	...	1	...	...	...	15	13	...
Pneumonia	1	...	...	..	1	1	...
Diphtheria	2	2	1*	5	5	...	2	2	...	...	19	19	1
Erysipelas	2	1	3	2	...

4

* Indicates age at which death occurred.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cases.				Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated		Nil.				
		At Home	In Hospital					
	

Disinfection of the rooms is carried out by spraying with Formalin and washing down with a solution of some well-known disinfectant. Bedding and clothing which cannot be boiled are disinfected by means of a Steam Disinfector at the Joint Hospital.

Thirteen cases of Scarlet Fever and 19 of Diphtheria were removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment. Two cases of Scarlet Fever were treated at home, and recovered.

One Death occurred from Diphtheria at the Isolation Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA.

The Council's scheme for the free immunisation against Diphtheria was carried out during February and 540 children between the ages of 1 and 15 years were inoculated.

Nineteen cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. Five of these cases occurred between April and December, none of whom were inoculated, and one of which proved fatal.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

AGE.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—10	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
10—15	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
15—20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20—25	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	..
25—35	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
35—45	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
45—55	3	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
55—65	4	1	...	...	1	1	...	...
65 and upw'ds	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	11	4	1	1	4	2	1	...

All Tuberculosis deaths have been notified.

During the year all cases of Tuberculosis reported have been frequently visited, sputum cups and disinfectants provided gratis, and leaflets containing information for those suffering from the disease have been distributed.

After death, or removal to Hospital, all bedding, rooms, etc., have been thoroughly disinfected.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925—No action taken.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62—No action taken.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the District is under the County Council, where one Nurse is in attendance.

Two Midwives are practising in the District.

There are two trained Nurses now working in the District, one for District work and the other for Maternity cases. These are supervised by a Committee, and supported by voluntary subscriptions. A small charge is made to those who require the Nurses' services and do not subscribe. Necessitous cases are attended free.

There is a Poor Law Institution and Hospital in the District, also a Cottage Hospital and ambulance facilities.

The Nantwich Joint Isolation Hospital has 41 beds. Three diseases can be concurrently treated. There are also up-to-date Ambulance facilities and Steam Disinfecting Apparatus.

The Smallpox Hospital is situated at Ravensmoor, and is available for both Urban and Rural Districts.

LABORATORY WORK.

Thirty-four specimens of sputum were examined at the County Laboratory.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the Council free for necessitous cases.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply is satisfactory.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The Sewage Disposal Scheme is working satisfactorily.

HOUSING.

The Council have erected 40 houses during the year to replace houses for demolition and to deal with overcrowding.

The Sanitary Inspector made a re-survey of the District and 57 houses were found to be unfit for human habitation.

These houses I inspected, together with the Inspector, and the position with regard to same at the end of the year will be seen in his report on Housing.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector, which is appended, shows in detail the work carried on during the year in the Health Department. It will be seen that a considerable number of inspections have been made.

Visits to work in course of construction and the supervision of work undertaken in the abatement of nuisances have entailed a large amount of work and expenditure of time. This is energy well applied, as it is only by the exercise of close personal supervision that satisfactory results can be obtained.

Particular attention has been paid to the sanitary conditions of premises at which cases of infectious disease occurred, notices being served when required and any defects found remedied.

J. D. MUNRO.

May, 1939.

Nantwich Urban District.

THE Sanitary Inspector's Report.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Nantwich Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration the Annual Report of the work done in the Sanitary Department during the year 1938.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. BEBBINGTON, A. R. SAN. I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

May, 1939.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTOR'S WORK UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACT FOR 1938.

Pail Closets converted into W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	46
W.C.'s erected	...	..	...	...	1
New W.C. Basins Fixed	...	...	...	...	1
Defective House Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	4
New Drainage Schemes...	...	...	...	...	9
Stopped House Drains and W.C.'s cleared	...	...	...	...	41
New Dustbins provided in place of defective ones	...	...	...	...	98
New Closet Pails provided	...	...	...	...	20
House roofs stripped and re-slatted	...	...	...	...	1
Defective House Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	11
„ Closet Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	4
„ Living Room Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	4
„ Spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Trapped Gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	6
New Ranges fixed	...	...	...	...	—
Privies taken down and rebuilt	...	...	..	...	60
Sinkstones fixed in houses	...	...	...	...	8
Sink Waste Pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Defective Yard Paving repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Brick Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	12
Dilapidated Plastering repaired...	...	...	...	...	16
Dirty Houses cleansed	..	...	...	...	—
Water Taps fixed inside houses	...	...	...	...	—

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS.

	Visits made.
Dwelling Houses (general inspections)	... 201
House Drainage (in course of construction)	... 238
Offensive Trades	... 60
Slaughter-houses	... 552
Other places where food is produced or sold	... 180
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	... 252
Factories	... 128
Outworkers' premises	... 230
Bakehouses	... 51
Common Lodging-houses	... 120
Canal Boats	... 20
Infectious Diseases inquiries and re-visits	... 51
Nuisances re-visited	... 542
Dustbins	... 100
Conversion of Pail Closets to Water Closets	... 809
Miscellaneous visits	... 310

3,844

NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR 1938.

One hundred and eighty-seven Informal Notices were served for the abatement of nuisances, and have been complied with.

One Statutory Notice was served, as follows:—under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936; this was complied with.

PAIL CLOSETS.

The scheme for the conversion of pail closets into water closets under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, has been commenced, and at the end of the year 122 replacements had been carried out.

Forty-six replacements were also carried out voluntarily by the Owners under a guarantee of the Council before the scheme came into operation.

Sixty dilapidated pail closets have been taken down and rebuilt ready for conversion.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

MILK AND DAIRIES' ORDER, 1926.

There are 14 Cowkeepers in the District. Five are producers of Accredited Milk.

Limewashing has been carried out at least twice during the year.

Four samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk have been taken for examination by the Methylene Blue Test, all of which have satisfied the test.

SCHOOLS.

The Primary School (Juniors' and Infants' Departments) were closed from the 25th November, 1938, to 28th December, 1938, owing to Measles. Disinfecting and cleansing were carried out under supervision.

The following works have been carried out during the year:—

NANTWICH ST. ANNE'S SCHOOL.

New boundary fence erected in girls' playground.

The whole of the playgrounds have been covered with tarmacadam.

NANTWICH COUNCIL (SENIOR) SCHOOL.

Firegrate, No. 6 classroom, repaired.

Steps leading to heating apparatus repaired.

Roof over south-west cloakroom repaired.

MARKET ST. C.E. SCHOOL.

New range of sanitary conveniences erected in Infants' playground.

Additions to heating chamber carried out.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are sixteen retail bakehouses in the District. These have been inspected and found satisfactory, 51 visits having been made.

Notices to limewash have been served in several cases, and have been complied with.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, etc.

There are four Registered and four Licensed private Slaughter-houses in the District. Five hundred and fifty-two visits have been made to these premises, which have been kept in a satisfactory state.

Twenty-six Slaughter-men's' Licences have been renewed and one new Licence has been granted.

Two pigs which were unfit for human food were voluntarily surrendered.

FOOD SUPPLIES CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

The premises where food supplies are prepared and exposed for sale are regularly inspected, and no seizure of unsound food has been made during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

These premises are regularly inspected, are kept in a cleanly state, and no complaints as to nuisances arising therefrom have been received during the year.

The following is a list of the Offensive Trades established within the District, viz:—One large Tannery, a Fellmonger, and one Tripe Boiler.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action taken.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are three registered Common Lodging-houses in the District.

One hundred and twenty visits have been paid to these premises, which were well conducted and kept in a clean state.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INFECTION.

All cases of infectious disease notified had immediate attention; precaution papers containing instructions for preventing the spread of the disease were left, also liquid disinfectants for washing and cleansing purposes. After recovery or removal of the patients the infected bedding and clothing were removed to the Isolation Hospital and disinfected by steam. The infected rooms were afterwards sprayed with Formalin and thoroughly cleansed.

Forty-eight rooms were disinfected during the year.

Special attention was paid to the sanitary condition of the premises, and any defects found were immediately remedied.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

These Acts were administered by officials appointed by the County Council.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under b),
50.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts:
By the Local Authority, **40.**

I. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts), **187.**

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose
220.

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, **Nil**.

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose, **Nil**.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, **Nil**.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, **Nil**.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, **25**.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 17, 18, and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs, **1**.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners, **1**.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners, **Nil**.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, **Nil**.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners, **Nil**.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners, **Nil**.

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made, **30**.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders, **2**.

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made, **Nil**.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit, **Nil**.

HOUSING ACT, 1936, Part IV. OVERCROWDING.

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year, **25**.
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein, **25**.
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein, **167**.
- (b) (i) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year, **Nil**.
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, **37**.
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases, **256½**.

OVERCROWDING RELIEVED—(c) (i).

19 families to Council houses.

1 family to larger house.

17 families reduced in number.

HOUSING ACT, 1930.

The position at the end of the year with regard to 157 Statutory Notices served under Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930, is as follows:—

67 houses:	Scheduled for demolition.	41 demolished.
26 houses:	Undertaking given not to use houses for human habitation after agreed date.	24 vacant.
64 houses:	Undertaking given to carry out all repairs required by the Council by an agreed date.	64 repaired.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

A re-survey of the dwelling houses in the District has been carried out during the year and 57 houses were found to be unfit for human habitation.

Statutory Notices were served under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and the Owners appeared before the Council

The position at the end of the year with regard to these houses is as follows:—

30 houses:	Scheduled for demolition.	24 vacant.
3 houses:	Undertaking given not to use houses for human habitation after agreed date.	3 vacant.
11 houses:	Undertaking given to carry out all repairs required by the Council by an agreed date.	
9 houses:	Adjourned for further consideration.	
4 houses:	Owners to be interviewed early in 1939.	

Forty houses have been erected under the Slum Clearance programme: eighteen with three bedrooms, 20 with four bedrooms, and 2 with five bedrooms.

Ten overcrowded families from Council houses with three bedrooms have been moved to the new houses with four bedrooms, and families displaced from unfit houses have been rehoused in the houses vacated. In this way it has been possible to rehouse 34 families from unfit houses and to deal with 19 of the more serious cases of overcrowding in the District.

Of the 97 houses which were scheduled for demolition 41 have been demolished; 44 of the remaining houses are now vacant and it is hoped to continue with the demolition of these houses early in 1939.

The position in relation to the 29 houses where an undertaking was given not to use for human habitation is as follows:—

12 houses:	Demolished.
2 houses:	Converted into one house.
4 houses:	Back to back, made into one house.
1 house:	Made fit for habitation.
8 houses:	Used for other purposes.
2 houses:	Not to be occupied after present tenancy.

The following is a schedule of the work carried out during the year under Preliminary Notices served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

	Preliminary Notices.
New tile floors	53
New steps	9
Defective brickwork repaired	8
Chimneys repaired and rebuilt	5
New grates and grates repaired	21
Plaster to walls and ceilings repaired	27
New stairs and stairs repaired	9
New doors and doors repaired	5
New door frames and frames repaired	6
New windows and windows repaired	32
Opening lights in windows	28
Bedroom floors repaired	18
New skirting boards	1
House roofs repaired	6
House roof stripped and reslated	—
Eaves and down spouts renewed	15
Yard paving repaired	19
New sinks fixed	2
Sinks fixed in houses, water laid on, gulley fixed to receive waste pipe, and connections to drains	—
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	7
Sinks taken down and refixed	6
Washing boilers repaired and new boilers	7
Privies repaired	25
Privies taken down and rebuilt	2
Coal house taken down and rebuilt	1
Coal house floors concreted	4
New yard gates and posts	4
New drains laid	—
New manhole covers	—

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Inspections under this Act have been made and contraventions have been dealt with.

FACTORIES.

**Report on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
and the Factories Act, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901
on 1st July, 1938).**

1.—INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH.

Including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises. ⟨1⟩	Number of		
	Inspections. ⟨2⟩	Written Notices ⟨3⟩	Occupiers. prosecuted. ⟨4⟩
Factories with mechanical power ...	82	7	—
Factories without mechanical power ..	46	6	—
† Other Premises under the Act ... (including works of building and en- gineering construction but not in- cluding outworkers' premises).	—	—	—
† Electrical Stations should be reckoned as factories.			
Totals ...	128	13	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. ⟨1⟩	Number of defects.			Number of defects in respect of which prosecu- ti'ns were institut'd. ⟨5⟩
	Found. ⟨2⟩	Remedied ⟨3⟩	Referred to H.M. Inspector ⟨4⟩	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	3	3	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7):				
Insufficient	1	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	8	7	—	—
Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—
Other offences:				
Failure to affix Abstract	8	—	8	—
(Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).				
Totals	21	11	8	—

OUTWORKERS.

Two hundred and thirty visits have been paid to Outworkers' premises; particular attention has been paid to the sanitary condition under which the outwork has been carried on and a number of nuisances have been abated.

LICENCES.

During the year twenty-three Licences for the sale and storage of Petroleum, one Game, and four Slaughter-house have been renewed.

NANTWICH URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT ON CANAL BOATS, 1938.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

BARKER STREET,

NANTWICH,

6th January, 1939.

Twenty boats were inspected during the year, and all were found in a satisfactory condition.

No boats have been registered during the year.

There have been no notifications of infectious disease.

The occupants of the boats were as follows:—

Men	...	...	...	...	...	28
Women	...	...	...	...	...	15
Children	...	...	...	...	...	7

A considerable number of visits were paid to the Canal but no boats found plying.

(Signed)

P. BEBBINGTON, A. R. SAN. I.,

Inspector.

